

One way to begin that process is to clean up our own house, and eliminate the influence of big money in politics. Campaign finance reform is needed now more than ever. Clearly no one can argue that the problem of low voter turnout in Virginia would be solved by spending more money. It is time to pass campaign finance reform and send a clear signal to the people of this country, that this Government is not for sale, that their vote does count, and that this Government belongs to the people and not the special interests.

The people are expressing this displeasure by staying home on election day. We must pass campaign finance reform before we adjourn this year. For all our sake, we cannot accept "no" as an answer.

222D ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues and all citizens of this Nation join me in congratulating the men and women of our U.S. Marine Corps as they celebrate the 222nd anniversary of the birth of the corps this Monday, November 10.

In commemoration of this event, I would like to include for the record a description of the creation of the Marine Corps in 1775 and a brief summary of the history of the Marines "from the Halls of Montezuma" to the evacuation of American citizens from strife-ridden Sierra Leone.

U.S. MARINE CORPS HERITAGE

On Friday, 10 November 1775, Col. Benedict Arnold stood on the banks of the St. Lawrence River and looked in frustration across a mile of storm-whipped water at the objective—Quebec. It was critical that Arnold's army execute the crossing before British reinforcements arrived.

Outside Boston on that same day, Gen. George Washington and his army were encamped at Cambridge. Although reasonably provisioned, there were shortages of blankets, uniforms, and powder.

In Philadelphia that same Friday morning, the President of the Congress, John Hancock, convened the Second Continental Congress to consider the situations near Quebec and Cambridge. Major items of discussion focused on relieving pressure from Arnold's army by securing Nova Scotia and replenishing Washington's army with the captured supplies.

The success of the Nova Scotia plan called for the creation of two battalions of Marines from Washington's army. Accordingly, the Continental Congress resolved that two battalions of Marines would be raised and they "be able to serve to advantage by sea when required." The new battalions would be distinguished as the First and Second Battalions of American Marines.

General Washington considered the decision to raise the Marine battalions from his army impractical. Congress relieved Washington of this responsibility and ordered the Marine battalions to be created independently of the army.

The expedition to Nova Scotia was eventually abandoned, but Congress refused to

abandon the resolution to form two new Marine battalions. The Continental Congress continued to maintain the idea of a Corps of Marines. During the subsequent decades and centuries, Congress has continued to nurture and support America's Marines.

In the aftermath of World War II, Congress directed the maintenance of a versatile and efficient Marine force. Congress resolved that a highly mobile and alert force of Marines should always be in position to impede a full-scale enemy aggression, while the American Nation is given time to mobilize its vast defense machinery. This capability remains the hallmark of today's Marine Corps.

Throughout their 222-year history, the U.S. Marine Corps has lived up to its reputation as America's most efficient force. Characterized by its amphibious, expeditionary, and combined arms capabilities, the Marine Corps has followed congressional direction that it "remain most ready when the Nation is least ready."

Since their creation in 1775, the marines have served our Nation in virtually every clime and place:

They were with John Paul Jones and Gen. George Washington during the American Revolution.

They stormed the shores of Tripoli in 1805, and raised the U.S. flag for the first time in the Eastern Hemisphere.

They were the first United States troops to enter the capital and to occupy the Halls of Montezuma in Mexico City during the Mexican War.

They were at Bull Run and New Orleans during the Civil War, in Cuba and the Philippines during the Spanish-American War, and in China during the Boxer Rebellion.

They fought at Belleau Wood, Soisson, St. Michiel, and the Argonne during World War I. They pioneered the concept of close air support in Nicaragua as marine aviators flew the first air missions in support of infantry forces.

They confirmed the legitimacy of amphibious warfare at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa during their World War II island campaign in the Pacific.

They executed the classic amphibious assault at Inchon, and became the first military organization to conduct helicopter operations in battle.

They destroyed seven enemy divisions at the Chosin Reservoir during the war in Korea.

They added to their lineage the names Da Nang, Hue City, Phu Bai, and Khe Sanh during the war in Vietnam.

They supported our Nation's interests in Beirut, Grenada, and Panama.

They embraced the techniques of vertical short takeoff, landing high-performance aircraft, and new concepts such as maritime prepositioned shipping.

They demonstrated their quick response, combat readiness, and logistical sustainability during the Gulf War.

They demonstrated the capabilities of versatile forces in humanitarian assistance operations by distributing food to the starving people of Somalia.

Thus far in 1997, our marines have conducted or contributed to 14 operations beyond normal readiness training. The most recent of these was Operation Noble Obelisk, during which our marines assisted in the evacuation of more than 2,500 American citizens from Sierra Leone in late May and early June.

It is with these events in mind, that I say, "Happy Birthday, Marines."

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS AND ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER DESIGNATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 931, which would designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area and the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center in the Florida Everglades.

The Everglades National Park—A unique national treasure—celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. As we celebrate this important milestone, it is fitting that we recognize the contributions of both of these individuals. As anyone familiar with the everglades knows, Marjory Stoneman Douglas has dedicated her life to the everglades. Her landmark Book, "The Everglades: River of Grass" brought attention to the unique everglades ecosystem and helped set in motion the tremendous restoration efforts now underway.

Mrs. Douglas, who celebrated her 107th birthday on April 7, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her efforts.

Ernest F. Coe helped lead the charge to establish the Everglades National Park and is widely regarded as the park's "father."

Coe's dedication and leadership in this area led to the authorization of the park in 1943 by Congress and the dedication by President Truman in 1947.

Over the years, the everglades and its surrounding ecosystem have fallen victim to neglect and misunderstanding. Congress and the State of Florida have supported action to save the everglades, and have worked to ensure that a coordinated, effective restoration program moves forward.

The ongoing south Florida initiative promises to combine existing programs with new targeted efforts to address many immediate and long-term needs of the everglades, including: fresh water supply and timing, wildlife protection, pollution prevention, Florida Bay improvements, and more.

As we continue to work on the larger issue of everglades restoration, I believe S. 931 offers us the opportunity to recognize the contributions of two individuals that have done so much for this national treasure and I strongly encourage my colleagues to support it.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1856. This bill was unanimously reported from the Resources Committee and the amendment before the